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Sen. Laura Toy's bill to toughen penalties for repeat child sexual predators clears Senate

LANSING – Legislation allowing certain repeat sex offenders who target children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole was passed by the Michigan Senate today, announced state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District.

Toy is the sponsor of Senate Bill 717 that amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for the increased penalties.

“When it comes to protecting our children, three strikes is too many,” Sen. Toy said. “Those who would not once, but twice try to prey on our state’s young people by committing such heinous crimes need to know that this will absolutely not be tolerated in Michigan.”

Toy’s bill is the companion to Senate Bill 709 which requires repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole if their victims were under the age of 13.

Current law provides that such offenders can be sentenced to life imprisonment or to any number of years in prison.

“Sex crimes against children are perhaps the most despicable human acts imaginable,” Sen. Toy said. “Particularly in the wake of too many tragic stories in the national media in recent memory, we need to be very serious about protecting children and punishing those who would do them harm.”

Toy’s bill will now go to the House of Representatives.

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